

REMARKS

Claims 1-14 and 31 have been canceled to allow prosecution of claims 15-30. Claims 16-17 and 20 have been amended to further define the claimed invention. Claim 32 has been added to clarify features of the claimed invention. No new matter has been added.

Further, it is noted that, notwithstanding any claim amendments made herein, Applicant's intent is to encompass equivalents of all claim elements, even if amended herein or later during prosecution.

With respect to the prior co-pending U.S. Application Serial No. 09/516,177, Applicant hereby incorporates the claim of priority from Japanese Application 11-130475 filed on March 31, 1999 and Japanese Application 11-266499 filed on September 21, 1999, and claimed under 35 U.S.C. §119.

The prior application is assigned of record to Toyoda Gosei Co., Ltd. at Reel 013927, and Frame 0279.

Early and favorable prosecution on the merits is respectfully requested.

Please charge any deficiencies in fees and credit any overpayment of fees to Attorney's Deposit Account No. 50-0481.

Respectfully submitted,



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